

WARREN SENTINEL



"Jolly Rogers"

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F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.

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Space warfare symposium *Role in combat effectiveness* **4**

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PASSING THROUGH

A member from the 90th Security Forces Squadron escorts a train through the base recently. Trains have traveled through the base since it was founded in 1867.



Photo by Tessa Cubbon

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Commentary

Military spouses living in the historic Old West

Karen Fortney
Warren spouse

Living on this historical base here, one can not help but wonder how military spouses from the past lived on other bases and posts. And I'm not talking about Air Force spouses, because the Air Force has really only been around since 1947. I'm thinking way back in the mid 1800s. While we have our own set of modern issues to deal with, spouses of the past had tremendous challenges to overcome.

We modern spouses often grump about moving so often, but moving on the frontier was no easy feat. The frontier plains were harsh and were quite a shock to the often pampered and educated military spouses who came from the "states" out east. Wives experienced numerous hardships--exposure to the elements, creature discomforts and the very real threat of, or even worse, an actual Indian attack.

One family, the family of Capt. Martin and Eveline Alexander had their travels chronicled in Anne Bruner Eales' book, "Army Wives on the American Frontier-Living By The Bugles." The Alexanders made six changes of duty stations in eight months. And in those days, the government didn't always reimburse families for their moves. This was especially hard considering a lieutenant's annual salary was \$1,400 and a colonel's was \$3,500. Think about the frontier privates who only brought home \$13 a month! Moving was not only a shock to the spouse, but a shock to the family's coffers as well.

Just as we do today, once frontier military families reached their destinations, the spouse had to worry about quarters. While we often worry about whether we'll get on-base quarters or whether we'll

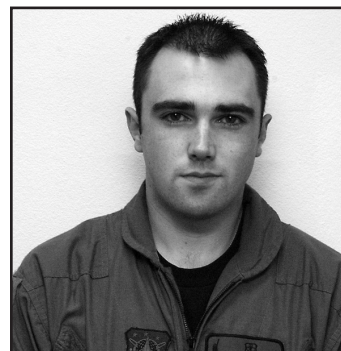
have a hard time finding a place off base, finding quarters on the prairie fort was especially complicated. Housing assignments were based strictly on rank and seniority. The process was called "ranking out" or as one officer wife called it "bricks falling." What she meant was any senior officer could arrive on station and even if single, kick out an entire family if he took a particular fancy to a junior member's quarters. At times, junior families were forced to live in tents for long periods of time. While moving so often is still a hardship, things have certainly improved.

Then there was cooking in the frontier fort. If you're like me, you may occasionally feel overwhelmed by the daily chore of providing meals; and that's with the benefit of a modern kitchen filled with gadgets and the many, many restaurants right outside the gate. Prairie fort spouses had few options. On the prairie, military spouses were lucky if they could get their hands on basics such as butter or eggs. In fact, eggs were so rare on the frontier plains, they were often given as gifts. The all too common shortage of poultry led to egg prices reaching \$2.50 a dozen in some

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Street Talk

The Warren Sentinel asked members of the 90th Medical Operations Squadron Flight Medicine section, "What are you looking forward to most about Cheyenne Frontier Days?"



"The concerts. Country music has grown on me since I've been here."
- Senior Airman C.J. Duffy



"Watching the Thunderbirds."
- Staff Sgt. Emmanuel Muezo



"Funnel cakes and cowboys."
- Senior Airman Ashley Byrd



"Supporting the community."
- Tech. Sgt. Robert Wolfe

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areas. Eales tells of one innovative military spouse, Mrs. Randolph Marcy, who decided to try her hand at turkey farming to supplement the family's income. Mrs. Marcy took her turkey farming seriously. So seriously in fact that, armed with only a skillet, she once killed a "dog" that carried off one of her precious fowl only to find out from her husband later that day that the dog was actually a wolf. Ever resourceful, Mrs. Marcy at least ended up with a wolf skin hat and mittens out of the engagement.

Eggs and poultry were only the beginning of frontier spouse cooking woes. At times apple pies were made without apples and custard without eggs because the expense of transporting food from the east was so outrageous. In many cases, a family's water supply was kept in a covered water barrel near the home. The water was rarely fresh, and with the problem of mosquitoes, a lack of fresh water often affected the health of the family. Next time I grump because my husband forgot to refresh our stock of cold bottled water, maybe I'll think back to the families pouring their water through cheesecloth to filter out the bugs!

Now let's talk about fashion. We northern tier military spouses sometimes find our communities' malls somewhat small. As with housing and food, military spouses on the prairie had to be creative. Shopping was most often done from catalogs such as Sears or Altman's. At the time, if you ordered a pair of shoes, the left and the right would often be mailed separately. After waiting months, you might get your long awaited shoes one at a time.

Of course, women from the East had to radically alter their fash-



Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Hasinger

Moving on the frontier and into one of the homes on Warren like this one in the 1800s and early 1900s was no easy feat. The frontier plains were harsh and were quite a shock to the often pampered and educated military spouses who came from the "states" out East. Wives experienced numerous hardships—exposure to the elements, creature discomforts and the very real threat of, or even worse, an actual Indian attack.

ion. A well-dressed woman put on up to 37 pounds of clothing in the morning, including the large, fashionable hoop skirt. In the West, even if you could find room in the wagon to bring a hoop skirt, the wind whipped your hoop skirt like a sail. What about keeping one's hair up to the standards of eastern society? Military spouses soon abandoned the styles popular back in the "states" for simple braids and tight buns. And while the wind and sun is still harsh in the west, we modern spouses simply apply generous amounts of creams laden with a plethora of miner-

als, emollients, and our precious SPF ingredients. Skin care on the prairie often amounted to putting glycerin on the skin as a form of suntan lotion—and that usually didn't work.

Don't get the impression that I don't share in and appreciate the challenges of the modern military spouse, I do. But sometimes, especially as I look over old Fort D.A. Russell, I find it healthy to put my trials in perspective. And just as we modern spouses can feel a sense of pride knowing we are a valuable part of our Air Force team, we should pause to reflect on

the many tribulations and challenges of the spouses that came before us who helped shape our west. Even though times have changed and hardships are different, one thing we do have in common is the love for our spouses and families and a shared sense of duty.

Note: There are many works available that detail the trials of the frontier military wife. Many of the anecdotes I cited above come from two books: "Glittering Misery," by Patricia Y. Stallard and "Army Wives on the American Frontier-- Living by the Bugles," by Anne Bruner Eales.

**To find out the latest information
on base including FPCON, INFOCON,
exercise information
and applicable delays and closures**

**Call the Warren Straight-Talk Line
773-2222**



Nation's military, industry leaders eye space technology's role in combat effects

Senior Master Sgt. Ty Foster
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

KEYSTONE, Colo. — Air Force Space Command's top functional leaders and space experts turned out in full force to support the 2006 Space Warfare Symposium here June 27 through 29.

Air Force Association Lance P. Sijan Chapter No. 125 hosted 240 of the nation's military and corporate industry space leaders and operators for the event, which focused panels and breakout discussions on the event theme of "Integrated Space Combat Effects – To the Battlefield and Beyond."

"We hope that we've provided a thought-provoking picture of space and the joint warfighter at an operational and strategic level," said Mr. Brian Binn, president of the AFA's Sijan chapter. "Space will continue to play an ever-increasing role as an instrument of our national defense and Colorado Springs will continue to be what we consider the center of gravity for space operations."

In his opening remarks, Maj. Gen. Thomas Taverny, mobilization assistant to the AFSPC commander, cited innovations such as the Joint Space Operations Center at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo., and its daily role in the Global War on Terrorism and the successes of precision target engagement via satellite navigation using Joint Direct Attack Munition guidance kits.

The general said JDAMs allow B-52s to attack targets from 12 to 20 miles away without risking harm to aircrews. The weapon's

"WE MUST DEVELOP SYSTEMS THAT INTEGRATE SPACE PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THE SERVICES. WE NEED MORE AND BETTER FREE THINKING THAN WE'VE EVER HAD."

- Peter B. Teets

Retired undersecretary of the Air Force

accuracy is honed from 300-meters using conventional bombs, to three meters using the Global Positioning System satellite constellation.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Steve White, from U.S. Northern Command, knows about the benefit of JDAM accuracy. He was a U.S. Navy SEAL for 10 years and has three tours supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

GPS allows a modified 50-plus-year-old weapons system "unheard of precision" in close-air support applications. "The accuracy is unbelievable," he said.

Despite the multiple successes space has seen in the global war, Chief White and the other three members of the Frontline Warfighter Panel had some recommended improvements for the space industry representatives on hand.

Satellite image clarity, increased radio bandwidth and streaming video from satellites or unmanned aerial vehicles, were among the various suggestions mentioned by panel members.

Information operations are the

key to success in the war, and space technology is key to IO success, said Army Lt. Col. Rick Steiner, 10th Special Forces Group commander.

"Space is like water, electricity and the sunrise – they're so fundamental that they're not really talked about," the colonel said.

People need to understand and know what is available from an applications standpoint. "(The space) community is going to have to push that knowledge to us," he said. "You're the repository of this expertise ... you can give that to the ground-based warfighting community."

Colonel Steiner recommended space enter the special ops community in a "more robust manner" by assigning space operators at the tactical headquarters level to educate leaders on what combat effects space can deliver.

In the global war, joint operations education is needed for integrating space combat effects in the prosecution of war. A panel of senior enlisted leaders believes educating the enlisted force is a fundamental

step to achieving success.

"Today's warfare requires precision accuracy because of the consequences if we miss," said Chief Master Sgt. John Foran, 9th Air Force command chief. "Not all of our Airmen know those consequences." When a bomb explodes it affects the surrounding community.

"Accuracy is paramount," he said.

The information taught to Airmen, however, needs to be targeted. Today's basic military training introduces the topic in broad strokes, said Chief Master Sgt. Ron Kriete, former AFSPC command chief. But for space knowledge, "we have to define what Airman needs what – not every Airman in our Air Force needs the full education on space assets."

Peter B. Teets, retired undersecretary of the Air Force, emphasized the importance of integrating space into the joint warfighting arena.

"I hope we realize that when we're pushing the bar high, we're going to encounter problems," he said. "The answer isn't to lower the bar."

"We must develop systems that integrate space professionals across the services. We need more and better free thinking than we've ever had," Mr. Teets said.

Additional discussion topics built upon these presentations and the questions and answers that emerged from them. Sessions focused on: space support to U.S. NORTHCOM, senior warfighter panel, director of space forces, national security space perspective, deterrence and strike perspectives, and enlisted space professional development.

AFSPC officer accepts O'Malley award

Award recognizes use of space technology in support of the warfighter

Senior Master Sgt. Ty Foster
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

KEYSTONE, Colo. -- The chief of Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center Weather Operations received the General Jerome F. O'Malley Distinguished Space Leadership Award for 2006 during a presentation ceremony at the Lance P. Sijan, Chapter 125 of Air Force Association, Space Warfare Symposium here June 28.

Nearly 400 people rose to their feet to applaud 2nd Lt. Randall S. Claar, 21st Operations Support Squadron, as he accepted the award recognizing his use of space technology in direct support of the warfighter.

During an introductory presentation, Maj. Gen. Thomas Taverney, mobilization assistant to the commander, Air Force Space Command, praised the lieutenant—the youngest recipient of the honor—for his “critical use of space assets during battle.”

“Lieutenant Claar showed us that space really does make a difference,” he said.

The lieutenant, then an

Air Force staff sergeant, was attached as the chief of combat weather operations with the 15th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron, 3rd Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division.

His unit was staged in Kuwait for four months prior to the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he said. He provided weather information to the Army's cavalry commander and aviation assets in his area of responsibility.

In March 2003 when the war began, Lieutenant Claar was the second Air Force member to enter Iraq.

His unit, he said, was a running decoy operation designed to find enemy units.

“Our job, as the cavalry, was to draw fire and continue on,” Lieutenant Claar said. “Then the 3rd ID came in behind us and eliminated the enemy forces.”

Baghdad was their overall objective, but it took some time to get there, he said. His actions, from March 25 to 26, 2003, earned him the Bronze Star Medal with Valor.

His cavalry commander heralded Lieutenant Claar's actions in the cita-



Courtesy photo

Second Lt. Randall Claar's convoy encountered the greatest sandstorm in four decades as they advanced into Iraq at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the sandstorm the convoy, to which then Staff Sgt. Claar was assigned, was surrounded by enemy forces, but held their ground while friendly munitions fell all around. On June 28, Lieutenant Claar received the General Jerome F. O'Malley Distinguished Space Leadership Award for 2006. The lieutenant is assigned to the 21st Operations Support Squadron.

tion for the medal.

“After four days of continuous battle without sleep, Sergeant Claar was exposed to extreme danger from fierce and unrelenting mortar, machine gun and rocket propelled grenade attacks during what would prove to be the decisive battle of the war in the city of As Samawah.

The lieutenant and his team found themselves under attack and extreme danger, according to the citation. Under a hail of enemy fire, Lieutenant Claar used an Iridium satellite phone to issue a warning for a severe sandstorm in the midst of the battle. This gave Army commanders time to secure the convoy before the largest sandstorm in four decades hit.

“The storm was blinding,” Lieutenant Claar said. “It looked like the surface of Mars when the sun was still up, and when the sun went down, it started to rain mud.”

The enemy continued to assault the halted convoy during the storm. Using

space-based assets, friendly air support dropped munitions within 200 meters of either side of the convoy to repel attackers.

While recovering from the attack, another 2,000 enemy soldiers ambushed the convoy, forcing them to dig in.

The citation recounts Lieutenant Claar's actions: “Braving a barrage of enemy fire and with blatant disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Claar was the first to exit his vehicle and quickly realized the convoy had stopped in a field of thousands of unexploded ordnances.”

“It was a mess,” the lieutenant said. “The only way to get through it was to have someone walk through it.”

That someone was him. The citation continues: “He ordered the rest of the convoy's personnel to stay in their vehicles while he guided the 23 vehicles to safety on foot amid enemy fire, stepping around unexploded ordnances.”

His experiences in Iraq

and actions during those tense days left a lifelong lasting impression on both Lieutenant Claar and his Army brothers.

His “Cav” brethren, three of whom have since died while serving in Iraq, inducted him into the Order of the Spur for his decisive actions and seamless integration into the Army unit. Those he led and those who led him, he said, were leaders in the truest sense. They inspired him to become an officer.

During the O'Malley award presentation, the ribbon bedecked officer wore his Cavalry spurs with his Air Force service dress uniform. With tears in his eyes and a crack in his voice, he toasted his Cavalry brothers and sisters.

Everyone in the audience was moved, not only by his actions in March 2003, but for what Lieutenant Claar has come to symbolize—the epitome of the Air Force space warfighter.

(Stefan Bocchino contributed to this article.)



Courtesy photo

Then Staff Sgt. Randall Claar attends to his duties as a combat weather operator during the initial attack on Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Briefs

Change of command

The 90th Security Support Squadron is holding a change of command ceremony 10 a.m. Tuesday in the 90th Security Forces Group (Building 34) parking lot. Maj. David Williams will take over command from Maj. Kathy Dorish. R.S.V.P. by Monday to 773-4901.

Tobacco cessation class

The 90th Medical Group Health and Wellness Center is holding tobacco cessation classes for active duty, family members, guard members, reservists, retired military personnel and DoD civilians. There is a series of four one-hour sessions.

Register on the Web at www.php-ids.com or call the HAWC at 773-4267.

SNCO induction ceremony

The next SNCO induction ceremony is scheduled for 7 p.m. today at the Trail's End Club.

Call 773-2256 for tickets.

Mayoral day

The next base-wide mayoral day is scheduled for Tuesday.

Challenge Rodeo

Volunteers are needed to assist children with special needs for the Challenge Rodeo 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 26 and 27.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Bobbie Tong via e-mail bobbie.tong@warren.af.mil, or Christie Lysinger at 773-5707.

Airman's Attic re-opening

Warren's Airman's Attic has reopened and is now sponsored by the 37th Helicopter Squadron. Hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, excluding holidays. Donations are accepted during operating hours.

For more information, call 773-4106.

Buffalo Stampede

The 28th annual Buffalo Stampede 5K/10K race is scheduled for July 22. Show time is 7 a.m. by Freedom Hall. The start time is 7:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$15. All runners will receive a T-shirt. Awards will be given to the top male and female runners and the top three runners per age group.

For questions or an entry form, contact 1st Lt. Zachary Moerbe at 214-1017.

Sunglasses

More than a fashion statement

Brian Hoflund

90th Medical Operations Squadron

We all know the importance of using sunscreen to protect our skin from the sun's harmful rays, but what about protection for our eyes?

July is UV Safety Month, and optometrists across the nation are urging Americans to protect their eyes and their children's eyes from ultra violet rays by wearing sunglasses and wide-brimmed hats.

Recent studies have shown that prolonged exposure to the sun's invisible, high energy ultraviolet rays without protection may cause eye conditions that can lead to vision loss, such as cataracts and age-related macular degeneration. During the summer months the level of ultraviolet radiation is three times greater than in the winter.

Sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat are the best defense system for eyes against sunlight and harmful UV rays. To be effective, both must be worn every time you're outside for prolonged periods of time, even when it's overcast.

But what are the best types of sunglasses to buy? The most important thing is to purchase sunglasses that block 99 to 100 percent of UV-A



Photo by Senior Airman Tessa Cubbon

July is UV Safety Month. Sunglasses offer the best protection from ultra violet rays.

and UV-B rays. Don't be misled by the color of the lens or the price tag dangling from the frame.

The ability to block UV light is not dependent on the darkness of the lens. UV protection can come from adding chemicals to the lens material during manufacturing or from a chemical coating applied to the lens surface. And as for the cost, many \$10 sunglasses provide equal or greater protection than a \$100 pair. With expensive sunglasses, the consumer is paying for style, frame quality and options

such as scratch-resistant coatings, not necessarily protective UV ray blocking ability.

In addition to the damage caused by repeated sun exposure overtime, eyes need to be protected from the acute damage caused by a single day in the sun. Excessive exposure to ultraviolet light reflected off sand, snow or pavement can burn the eye's surface. Similar to sunburns, eye surface burns usually disappear within a couple of days, but may lead to further complications later in life.

Activities and off-duty employment:

Follow these steps to make it all legal

Article courtesy of the 90th Space Wing Legal office

Now that the weather is getting warmer it is more likely Airmen will be out enjoying themselves: taking it easy in the sun – or for the more extreme of Airmen – boxing, motorcycling, wild horse racing ... you name it.

This is the time to keep in mind that if an Airman is thinking about engaging in a high-risk activity or taking a part-time job, he should notify his commander. Commanders have the prerogative to regulate Airmen's off-duty activities. Off-duty employment is governed by Air Force Space Command Inst 51-4 and the Joint Ethics Regulation, DoD 5500.7R. The instruction prohibits AFSPC personnel, military and civilian, from engaging in employment that is prohibited

by law, would detract from readiness or pose a security risk.

Personnel may not engage in outside employment (with or without compensation) that:

- Interferes with government duties
- May bring discredit upon the government or the DoD
- May create a conflict of interest
- Detracts from readiness or pose a security risk

An Airman who has a second job, or is thinking about getting one, must fill out an AF Form 3902. The purpose of the form is to make sure the Airman has notified the chain of command that the activities will not interfere with the mission.

The process:

1. Print out AF Form 3902 - the form is available on the Air Force Publications Web site ([http://www.e-](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil)

[publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil))

2. Fill out applicant portion of the form

3. Make an appointment with supervisor to discuss the off-duty activity

4. Obtain supervisor's approval/disapproval

5. Take the form to the 90th Space Wing Legal office for review. For an airman first class or below, the legal office will ask supervisors whether there are any disciplinary problems and all training is completed. Wait for the legal office to call. It should take no longer than five days for the form to be ready to be picked up.

6. Take the form (and legal review, if applicable) to the commander for review.

Include the form in the Airman's PIF after the commander approves/disapproves the application for off-duty employment.

Volunteers help make a difference at Warren

Crew helping to recover Colorado butterfly plant

Cathy Pesenti
90th Civil Engineer
Squadron

Eight young volunteers from around the country have arrived at Warren to help with recovery efforts for the threatened Colorado butterfly plant.

The volunteers are from the Student Conservation Association and are here to remove noxious weeds from sensitive habitat where the weeds may be hindering the growth of this rare plant. The crew is focusing their efforts on infestations of Canada thistle in the unnamed drainage where the population of the butterfly plant is on the rise.

"It's a small project, but still helpful," said crew member Kimberly Pivornas. "The small things make differences."

The crew members are Justin Canniff, 24, from Cedar Springs, Mich.; Lora Woodward, 23, from Harrisburg, Pa.; Anthony Browne, 18, from Wayne, Pa.; Bryan Sicard, 17, from Cornish, N.H.; Katy Harvey, 17, from Cocoa Beach, Fla.; Eric Timmons II, 17, from Washington D.C.; Kimberly Pivornas, 17, from Cavendish, Vt.; and Monica Hilliard, 16, from Washington D.C. The entire crew is staying at the family campground for the duration of the 35-day project.

"At first I was skeptical and thought pulling weeds on an Air Force base would be weird," said Miss Hilliard. "It is actually really fun living on base, and it is great to be helping the environment by saving the Colorado butterfly plant."

Since their arrival on



Photo by Cathy Pesenti

Eight volunteers from around the country came to Warren in June for a 35-day project to help recover the threatened Colorado Butterfly Plant. The volunteers are from the Student's Conservation Association. Bottom row from left: Justin Canniff, Monica Hilliard, Kimberly Pivornas, Katy Harvey. Top row from left: Lora Woodward, Eric Timmons, Bryan Sicard, Anthony Browne.

June 15, the crew has explored the Snowy Range and Vedauwoo. When they

are finished with their project, they will be taking a five-day recreation trip. Mr.

Browne said, "Hopefully we can continue to explore the state of Wyoming."

CSI: Wyoming

Dental team assists authorities with identification

Senior Airman Tessa Cubbon
90th Space Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 90th Medical Group Dental Clinic recently assisted identifying of a body found in the Whitney Canyon area north of Evanston, Wyo.

Two dentists and two assistants responded to the dental forensics identification call when a hiker discovered the remains June 11.

Deputies responded and sealed the scene after the body was found. Investigators from the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation crime lab were called in to process the scene, gather evidence and remove the body, according to an article in the Jackson Hole Star Tribune.

"For me, it's gratifying to put together a piece of the puzzle," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Lori Everett, 90th Medical Operations Squadron dentist. "Since I've been here at Warren this is only the second time I've done this."

Assisting with the Cheyenne Crime Lab isn't a normal occurrence; however, it isn't completely out of the ordinary, either.

"It can be anywhere from four to eight times a year," Dr. Everett

**"FOR ME, IT'S GRATIFYING TO
PUT TOGETHER A PIECE OF THE
PUZZLE."**

- Lt. Col. (Dr.) Lori Everett
90th Medical Operations Squadron

said. "We've had forensic identification experience and training."

The training included the five-day 38th Annual Forensic Dental Identification and Emerging Technologies course.

That training, said Dr. Everett, was important to the identification of the body found in Whitney Canyon.

The forensic dental team used a hand-held, light-weight X-ray unit to take pictures of the victim's teeth that would later be compared to existing dental records.

"It's really ideal for what we use it for," said Dr. Everett. "Ideally what we like to do is compare our X-rays with X-rays from a dentist the person might have seen."

Fortunately, officials had an

idea of who the victim was.

The dentist of the suspected victim, however, did not have X-ray films on file. She had a health history which included her name and age along with a list of dental procedures.

Dr. Everett and her team compared the victim's dental health history records with the X-rays.

"No two cases are alike, but once you've done one you're prepared to do anything that comes along," she said.

The dental clinic also helped the forensics team with the crash on I-80 in December 2004.

Dr. Everett said the dental clinic has an agreement with the crime lab in Cheyenne.

"If they need help, we're on call," she said.

The Wyoming State Crime Laboratory is a full-service forensic laboratory. The Laboratory Section of the Division of Criminal Investigation has the responsibility of performing forensic examinations on physical evidence submitted to the Laboratory from criminal justice agencies, according to their Web site http://wyolabs.state.wy.us/dci_crime.html.

Dr. Everett said the crime lab might do a DNA test to be positive on the identification of the victim. DNA testing is expensive and can take a long time.

They'll do dental identification before DNA because it's cheaper, said Dr. Everett. This can often times be all that they use.

Unless it's DNA or X-rays, investigators can't be 100 percent sure, she said.

Investigators used finger prints and dental records to identify the woman as 41-year-old Shannon Bohannon of Evanston, said Sheriff Lou Napoli, Unita County Sheriffs Department.

"Once you get past the idea that this was a living person, it's very interesting," said Dr. Everett. "We helped them fit one more piece of the puzzle."

How to change a life in three days

20 AF CGO helps restore RAF cemetery in Iraq

Capt. Nicole Walters
90th Space Wing Public Affairs

It once was hallowed ground.

When Capt. Jutta Cortes, 20th Air Force, arrived, it was abandoned, overgrown and the place where souls whispered from beyond for someone to remember.

She changed all that, and in the process, made a difference.

Captain Cortes was deployed to Iraq when a stranger asked her to help save the Royal Air Force Cemetery at Camp Hab-baniyah, Iraq, which was created in 1927 by a treaty between Iraq and Britain.

The RAF mission was vital to the survival of the Iraqi way of life and the success of Allied forces, especially in April 1941 when Rashid Ali, and Iraqi dissident led a 10,000-man army against the RAF. According to the Department of the Army, if the RAF had failed, the Germans would have taken control of Iraq,

allied oil supplies would have been lost, Egypt could have fallen, communications with India cut, and quite possibly, the whole war lost.

Remaining after the war were flower beds and fruit trees that cradled the final resting spot of 162 British and Commonwealth personnel and 128 civilians, wives and children.

The Iraqis have always remembered them as heroes, but time neglected the cemetery and her contents.

Captain Cortes, and avid gardener, was just the person to help. Along with Tech. Sgt. Stephen Veeder and Master Sgt. Steven Amundson, she organized more than 40 Iraqi volunteers to help restore the cemetery.

"They wanted to help, so it wasn't hard to get volunteers," said Captain Cortes. "They understand the importance of history and the people who gave their lives for not only their country but also Iraq."

The volunteers spent

three long, intense days cleaning the cemetery. They picked up branches, replaced headstones and even endured incoming attacks.

"We would have to dive to the ground," said Captain Cortes. "There was no bunker or shelter to go to, so we would lie on the ground between the headstones."

The irony is symbolic: they were putting their lives on the line for those who had sacrificed their lives.

The most sobering moments for the team were caring for disheveled graves whose contents had been disturbed; the team returned them to their slumber.

Helping in the cemetery effort was a young Iraqi soldier nicknamed Freeman, who, like many Iraqis, had endured death threats for serving his country.

Captain Cortes and Freeman soon began to talk and Freeman told her he wanted to come to

"WE WOULD HAVE TO DIVE TO THE GROUND. THERE WAS NO BUNKER OR SHELTER TO GO TO, SO WE WOULD LIE ON THE GROUND BETWEEN THE HEADSTONES [TO AVOID ENEMY ATTACKS]."

- Capt. Jutta Cortes
20th Air Force

the United States to go to college. Just as the Iraqis had volunteered to help her without question, Captain Cortes volunteered to help Freeman.

"The paperwork has all been done," said the anxious Captain Cortes. "Now we are waiting for approval [from the U.S. government] so he can come to the United States."

The hope is Freeman will be in Cheyenne in time to start fall classes at LCCC. He'll stay with Cap-

tain Cortes and her family while he pursues a degree.

What started out as a volunteer project touched multiple generations in multiple ways: from WWII to Operation Iraqi Freedom, from British to American and Iraqi servicemembers and from the past to the future.

What started as a passion for gardening for Captain Cortes revealed her true passion: making a difference in the lives of others.

Air Force cycling team rides the Rockies

Capt. Jean Duggan
50th Space Wing Public
Affairs

CAÑON CITY, Colo. - Two thousand bicyclists from across the United States joined together June 18 to 23 in "Ride the Rockies," an annual bicycle tour that raises money for charities.

This year's tour took cyclists 419 miles through the Rocky Mountains from Cortez to Cañon City, Colo.

Since 1986, "Ride the Rockies" has become an annual event starting on Father's Day. This year marks the seventh consecutive year Air Force Space Command has put together an Air Force team to go on the tour, said the team's captain, Lt. Col. Stephen Mitchell, 50th Operations Group deputy commander.

What better way to lead the U.S. Air Force Space World Cycling team through the tour than by using the Global Positioning System?

"This year is the first time one of our members actually put together the GPS data for the ride," Colonel Mitchell said. "That's something that was available for everybody on the ride."

While using GPS is not a staple for all bicyclists, members of the team use it before, during and after each day's ride.

"Before the ride, we use it extensively for training pur-

poses," Colonel Mitchell said. "Because we have mapped out routes, we know how long it should take us. We can improve ourselves using that kind of data."

"The other thing we use GPS for is to gauge how we're doing on the ride or our average speed—those are important things to bicyclists to see how well we're doing that day," he added.

Following the end-of-day checkpoint, riders often take to the hills on adventures that may not be included in the "Ride the Rockies" map book.

"There's no timeframe except at the end; they sweep the course at 4 p.m. each day, from start to finish," said Colonel Mitchell. "In the meantime, you can actually go and do other things if you want. For example, sometimes there are optional loops and routes. They don't necessarily give you a map, so it's always nice to know where you are."

Throughout the trip, Colonel Mitchell keeps four goals in mind.

"The first goal is always safety," he said. "We want to make sure that everybody's safe. We're pretty well connected because we all have some kind of communication device, usually a cell phone on us, and we have everybody's cell phone number on a card that we carry."

"We keep in touch like that because there's such a



Courtesy photos

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Robert Kodis and team captain Lt. Col. Stephen Mitchell, lead the U.S. Air Force Space World Cycling team into the Poncha Pass checkpoint on day five of "Ride the Rockies," a six-day cross-state bicycle tour. Colonel Mitchell is the 50th Operations Group deputy commander.

wide variance in people's capabilities in terms of riding," he added. "You don't necessarily stay together."

"Trying to keep up with the boss (Colonel Mitchell) is like a nightmare," said team member retired Chief Master Sgt. Robert Kodis, smiling. "I go at my own pace, and I'm normally the last one in, but that comes with age."

"There are 25 of us," Colonel Mitchell said. "It's really hard to ride in a group that big when we're also sharing the road with cars. You really have to be careful; it's single file."

Because the team's participation in Ride the Rockies is considered permissive temporary duty, Colonel Mitchell's second goal is to always be an Air Force recruiter.

"We put the Air Force out in front of the general public," he said. "You're a representative of the Air Force. Usually, it just means talking to people. People come up and ask, 'Are you in the Air Force? What do you do? Do you recommend my child join?' Although Space Command put the team together, we have people from across the Air Force."

Team member retired Lt.

Col. Fernando Aguilar shares Colonel Mitchell's view.

"You are a recruiter, and you're spreading a good impression about the Air Force," he said.

Warfit and personal challenges are the final reasons Colonel Mitchell has signed up for the "Ride the Rockies" tour.

"It's a great fitness tour, so it's great for warfit," he said. "It's a challenge to do the ride, and I'm always up for a challenge."

Chief Kodis has a different view on the health benefits.

"If this was exercise, I wouldn't be doing it. This is enjoyment," he said. "I normally take medication for anxiety, and I haven't taken anything this whole week because this is a high in itself. I think more people ought to get involved. We need to take time to enjoy life."

Each day of the tour is an opportunity for team members to learn more about each other and think about what their trip is accomplishing across the state.

"We camp out together, and we have some time to talk with each other," Colonel Mitchell said. "We've gained a lot of friends through the years and

camaraderie across the Air Force."

"Ride the Rockies donates money to the Denver Post charity foundations, and they give back to each of the host towns," said Katherine Aguilar, Colonel Aguilar's wife. "That's rewarding to us. This ride is not about competition; it's about fun and camaraderie."

Colonel Aguilar and his wife, Katherine, met on the ride in 2000 and were engaged on the same stretch of road in 2004.

The funds that the Denver Post receives from each team member's entry fees are used for different charities in each of the towns, Colonel Mitchell said.

"I know most people don't think of it as a charity ride, but that's really what it is," he said.

Colonel Mitchell's time as team captain may be gearing down.

"This is lucky seven," he said. "Next year it will be lucky eight and that may be my last one for the team. I may do it again, but not as the team captain. I have to find a young guy to take the gauntlet."



Lt. Col. Stephen Mitchell, 50th Operations Group deputy commander and the U.S. Air Force Space World Cycling team captain, pauses to watch other riders as they coast into the checkpoint. The cycling team participated in Ride the Rockies, a six-day bicycle tour.

45 SW supports successful shuttle launch

Discovery's mission -- safety tests, maintenance, and supply delivery

Ken Warren
45th Space Wing Public Affairs

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. -- The 45th Space Wing provided flawless Eastern Range support for NASA's launch of Space Shuttle Discovery July 4. Discovery lifted off at 2:38 p.m.(EDT) from Space Launch Complex 39B at Kennedy Space Center.

"Congratulations to the entire NASA, DoD

and contractor launch team," said Brig. Gen. Susan Helms, 45th SW commander and deputy Department of Defense manager for manned spaceflight.

"The 45th Space Wing is proud of its contributions to assuring this safe and successful launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery. We have a great partnership with NASA and this mission validates the year of hard work we've all invested in getting the shuttle back into

orbit. This is a great day not only for our space program, but for the nation," said General Helms.

The crew of Space Shuttle Discovery will test new equipment and procedures that increase the safety of space shuttles during the STS-121 mission to the International Space Station. They also will perform maintenance on the space station and deliver supplies and cargo for future station expansion.



NASA photo by Sandy Joseph and Robert Murray

The Space Shuttle Discovery lifts off from Space Launch Complex 39 B at Kennedy Space Center, Fla., July 4 with seven astronauts on board.



Photo by Senior Airman Tessa Cubbon

WING RUN

Col. Michael Carey, 90th Space Wing commander, leads Warren's first wing run Wednesday around Argonne Parade Field. The next two runs are scheduled for Aug. 23 and Sept. 27.

ADC paralegal: Helping fellow Airmen

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Perge, 90th Space Wing Area Defense Counsel, sat down with Senior Airman Tessa Cubbon, 90th Space Wing Public Affairs, to discuss helping people, why his father is his hero and the most common misconception about the ADC.

What do you do?

I'm the defense paralegal. I'm primarily responsible for assisting the ADC and the overall administration of the office. I do all of the initial interviews for potential clients, and get them started on their initial responses for administrative paperwork, and then I do minor investigating and initial interviews with some witnesses.

What is the function of the ADC?

It's primarily to assist military members through any adverse actions they're going through. We'll represent them in a court martial or the Article 15 process.

Describe your typical work day.

I have appointments set up in the morning [where I] talk to individuals [about] LOCs (letters of counseling), LORs (letters of reprimand), Article 15s -- people that have been called in to make a statement -- come here either before they make a statement or after they make a statement and find out what they should do or what they can do. [Then I] work on responses for LOCs LORs and Article 15s.

What's the best part about your job?

Helping people. We get a lot of people in here who've never been in trouble before. I think the best part of my job is to help them through a rough time in their career.

What do you think other people misunderstand or take for granted about your job?

I think a lot of people have the



Photo by Senior Airman Tessa Cubbon

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Perge, 90th Space Wing Area Defense Counsel paralegal, spends his free time hunting and fishing with his family.

misunderstanding that if they say they want to come see the ADC, or if they say their invoking their right to counsel, that they automatically look guilty, and that's not the case. They have a Constitutional right to come see the defense counsel, but I think that is a misconception that if they tell their commander or OSI (Office of Special Investigations) that they don't want to answer questions that automatically makes them look guilty.

But it doesn't?

No, it does not.

What do you do when you're not working?

When I'm not working, I do a lot of hunting and fishing with the family. I've been doing it all my life. I actually started bow hunting when I was 12.

What volunteer work do you do?

My wife is a family home childcare provider, so I do a lot of functions with the kids. A few weeks ago they had a carnival, and I helped them with that. I do a lot of stuff for Frontier Days.

Who's your hero?

My father. I think he made me into the person I am as far as my work ethic, my personality. I owe a lot of that to him.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a football player.

Why aren't you a football player now?

Lack of talent [laughing]. That's what the coach told me.

So you joined the Air Force instead?

I did -- a couple of years after I graduated. I did a few odd jobs

here and there. I went to community college for a while. Then I joined the Air Force, got married and had kids.

Did you come in as a paralegal?

I did not. I came in initially as an air transportation specialist then they downsized that career field and I was force shaped in to TMO (traffic management office). Then I retrained in to my current career field.

How long have you been in?

Fourteen and a half years.

What do you hope to do with your life?

Right now we're looking at retiring at 20 [years] or shortly thereafter, and then I'd like to open up my own business. I would like to open up a small archery shop or a bait and tackle shop, something like that.

**THIS PAGE IS RESERVED TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING WARREN MEMBERS.
TO NOMINATE, E-MAIL SENTINEL@WARREN.AF.MIL.**

Saddle up for the buffalo roast

The Trail's End Club is having a buffalo roast 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 22. Entertainment will be provided by the Heartland of America Band. If purchased by today, tickets are \$14 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Children ages 5 to 10 are \$6, and children under 4 are 50 cents per year of age. Tickets purchased after today are an additional \$2, with the exception of children under 4.

For more information, call 773-3048.

Fuel injection service special

Receive a \$10 discount on a complete fuel injection service during the month of July at the Warren Auto Skills Center. Receive a \$10 discount.

Call 773-3869 for an appointment.

Rock climbing wall addition

A third wall that features advanced levels and

an arch has been added to the rock climbing wall at the Warren Community Center. Users with current certifications will receive an update to training at no charge. New users certifications is \$10. Call 773-3511 for an appointment. A train the trainer class will be held Aug. 7 to 9. Squadron physical training managers may join.

Mountain biking trip

Outdoor recreation is hosting a mountain biking trip to Vedawoo July 23. Participants may bring their own bike or use one of ODRs. The trip departs at 8 a.m. The cost is \$15.

For more information, call ODR at 773-2988.

Red Cross swim lessons

Red Cross swim lessons are coming to the aquatic center. Morning sessions are held Monday and Tuesday from July 24 to Aug. 3. Afternoon sessions are held Tuesday and Thursday from Aug. 1 to 24.

For more information, call 773-3195.

Xtreme bowling

Xtreme bowling is held every Friday and Saturday night from 7 to 11 p.m. at Warren Lanes. The cost is \$6.50 per lane, per hour. Xtreme bowling is free every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shoe rentals are 75 cents.

For more information, call 773-2210.

Laramie Peak hike

Outdoor recreation is hosting a hiking trip to Laramie Peak Saturday. The full day, 10-mile, trek is recommended for the moderate to advanced hiker. The cost is \$15 per person.

For more information, call ODR at 773-2988.

New Rubyjuice offers

Rubyjuice, located in Fall Hall, now offers prepaid cards. They will also keep the cards on file for patrons. Pre-workout orders are now being taken.

For more information, call 773-6171.

Base library receives \$10,000 in new items

The base library recently received \$10,000 in additional funds to be used to buy new books and movies. New books ordered include new and classic picture books, juvenile titles, young adult titles, adult fiction, adult nonfiction and books on CD. Most of the movies ordered are entertainment new releases, but some educational DVDs and classics were also ordered. The materials have already started arriving at the library and more will continue to arrive over the next several months.

Water World Wednesdays

Join Outdoor Recreation Wednesday or July 26 on a trip to Water World. The cost is \$25 per person and includes entry ticket and transportation. Trip departs 8 a.m. and returns approximately 7 p.m. Children age 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 773-2988.

Ladies night at the wood shop

It's ladies night from 6 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the base wood shop. Receive one-on-one instruction on any project. Taking the free safety orientation class is a prerequisite.

For more information, call 773-3166.

Wireless Internet at library

The base library now has wireless Internet.

For more information, call 773-3416.

Golf 4 Kids

Children ages 8 to 13 are invited to learn to play golf. Golf 4 Kids sessions are 10 a.m. to noon Monday to Thursday. Advanced registration required. Participants receive use of a junior club set, Golf 4 Kids logo T-shirt, cap, golf towel, neon tee pack and bag tag, rules and etiquette brochures and a graduation certificate. The cost is \$99.

For more information, call the Warren Golf Course at 773-3556.

YOU'VE BEEN DEPUTIZED



Help the 90th Security Forces Group protect military assets and personnel by reporting information regarding criminal activity through the *90th SFG Silent Witness Program.*

Callers will remain anonymous.

For more information, contact 90th SFS investigators at 773-2215



Report suspicious activities to 90th SFS investigators at 773-2215



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**your family
your health
your kids
your budget
your strength
your friends
your readiness
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